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Workers preparing floating barriers, used to keep oil away from the coastline

OIL DISASTER IN GULF OF MEXICO

Oil flowing out of a pipe on the seabed of the Gulf of Mexico is threatening to cause an environmental disaster in the USA. Workers in hundreds of small boats are setting up floating barriers, called booms, to try to stop a huge oil slick from reaching the coastlines of the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

On 20th April a floating oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico caught fire after an explosion. The rig, called Deepwater Horizon, was designed to drill for oil deep underwater. Workers on the rig were quickly evacuated. Eleven people are still missing. They are presumed to have died. Two days after the fire began, the oil rig sank. It was then noticed that oil was leaking from the seabed.

The leaks are coming from a broken pipe under the rig that brings oil to the surface. The oil is coming from an oil-field 4,000 metres (13,100 feet) below

the seabed. These oil pipes have valves fitted to them called 'blowout preventers'. If an accident occurs these valves should automatically close the pipes and stop oil flowing through them. But the Deepwater Horizon's blowout preventer did not work correctly. So oil is continuing to flow through the broken pipe. Oil floats on water, so a huge oil slick has formed on the surface of the sea.

A company called Transocean owns the Deepwater Horizon rig. Its headquarters are in Switzerland. BP, one of the world's biggest oil companies, was paying Transocean to drill for oil in the Gulf of Mexico on its behalf. BP is based in the UK.

The leaking pipe is too deep underwater for human divers to be able to reach it. So BP has been using remote operating vehicles (ROVs) to try to activate the blowout preventer. These are submarine

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robots. So far the ROVs have failed to shut the valve.

The oil leak is about 77 kilometres (48 miles) from where the River Mississippi, one of the longest in the world, flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The coastline on either side of the river's mouth is made up of what are known as wetlands. Environmentalists say the accident could not have happened at a worse time for the wildlife there. At this time of year a large number of water birds nest in these wetlands. Other birds flying back to the USA for the summer months also use the wetlands to rest. Experts say most birds that come into contact with the oil will die.

The accident has also affected fishing companies. Many fish for shrimps, crabs and oysters along this part of the Gulf Coast during the summer months. They have been ordered to stop fishing. Some believe the oil could ruin the fishing industry in this part of the Gulf of Mexico for many years.



Several methods are being used to reduce the size of the oil slick. These include boats skimming oil from the sea's surface, and setting parts of the slick on fire. Aircraft are spraying special chemicals called dispersants on the slick. These break down the oil so it mixes with the seawater and sinks to the seabed. Some of the ROVs are pumping dispersants directly into the oil flowing out of the pipe deep under the water.

BP has two plans to stop the leak. It is building several large steel domes. These will be lowered to the seabed so they sit on top of the oil leaks. The domes are designed to act like upside-down funnels. Pipes fitted to the top of the domes will then funnel the leaking oil to the surface, where ships can collect it.



Satellite photograph showing the oil slick, taken a few days after the oil rig sank

Nobody knows if this will work. BP officials say if it does they should be able to collect about 85% of the oil coming out of the broken pipe. The first dome is expected to be lowered to the seabed on the 10th May.

The other plan is to drill what is known as a relief well nearby. This relief well will meet the leaking one deep below the seabed. Large amounts of mud and concrete will then be pumped down the relief well. Experts say this should block the leaking pipe. In the past this method has stopped similar undersea oil leaks. However, drilling the new relief well could take several months.

Barack Obama, the president of the USA, declared the oil leak a national emergency. He visited the area on 2nd May and spoke to those working to stop the oil from reaching the coastline. The president insists BP is responsible for the accident and all the damage it causes. The company has already agreed to pay for cleaning up all the oil. ■

TREATING FUTURE ILLNESSES?

A professor has become the first person in the world to start taking medicine for an illness he might get in the future. Doctors made suggestions about the medicines he should take after studying his genome.

The genome is the name given to the complete set, or map, of all genes in a human, animal, plant, or other living thing. Genes have tiny coded pieces of information that determine a living organism's characteristics. For example, in humans different genes can determine the colour of a person's eyes or hair.

Scientists have been studying and mapping genomes for several years. Over time they have also discovered that our genes have something to do with whether we get certain illnesses. Scientists are continuing their studies about the connection between genes and disease. They are trying to find out how our surroundings and other things affect the illnesses we get, and how our genes determine illnesses. Most scientists agree that in some cases, it's a combination of our genes and our environment that causes us to get certain illnesses.

Scientists think some genes may predispose us, or make us more likely to get, certain illnesses. But they need something else from our environment to 'switch them on'. If that 'something else' does not happen then we don't get the illness. Scientists say there are still many things they do not understand about how our genes and our surroundings work together in this way.

Stephen Quake, an American university professor, decided to have his genome mapped. He then gave his genome information to medical scientists to study. A family member of his had already suffered

from heart disease. So he wanted to know if his genome showed that it was likely he would get the same heart disease in the future.

The medical scientists compared Professor Quake's genome to those known to indicate a person is likely to get particular illnesses. The scientists tested for 55 different diseases. They said Professor Quake's genome shows that he has a more than 50% chance of getting heart disease and becoming obese as he gets older. They also said his genome shows he has a low risk of getting a disease called Alzheimer's or of having eye problems.

Now, based on the study of his genome, Professor Quake has begun to take statins. These are medications people take to lower their level of cholesterol, a substance that is connected to heart disease and obesity.

Professor Quake predicts the study of people's genomes will be a normal part of everyday healthcare in the future. For example, he says people whose genomes show they have a higher risk of heart disease will go for checkups with their doctors more often than those with a lower risk.

However, other experts disagree with what Professor Quake has done. They say scientists do not yet know enough about genomes and whether it is 'right' to treat people today for a disease they may or may not get in the future. ■

NOAH'S ARK

On 27th April Christian explorers from Turkey and Hong Kong made an official announcement. They claim to have found the remains of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat, close to the border between Turkey and Armenia.

The story of Noah is mentioned in ancient Jewish, Christian and Islamic

writings. According to the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Christian Bible, God tells Noah he is going to send a huge flood to punish people for their sins. God orders Noah to build an enormous wooden ark, or boat. Once it has been completed God sends two of every animal to Noah to be loaded onto the ark. Noah, his family and the animals on the ark are the only survivors of the great flood apart from the fish in the sea.



Mount Ararat

In the story, when the floodwaters go down the ark comes to rest 'on the mountains of Ararat'. Experts calculate that if the story is true the flood would have happened about 4,800 years ago.

The Book of Genesis describes the ark and lists its dimensions. From the measurements listed it's thought the ark would have been around 137 metres (450 feet) long.

In the past several people have claimed to have found the remains of Noah's Ark in the area around Mount Ararat. Yet none has been able to prove it. Some claims have been shown to be hoaxes.

The explorers from Turkey and Hong Kong showed a video of what they said was a wooden structure. It included a staircase and doors. They said they discovered the remains last year but had not made an announcement until now because they wanted to find out the age of some of the wood.

The group says tests on the wood have recently been done. These showed it dates to around 2,800 years BC – about the time that the flood is supposed to have happened. The group said the exact place where the wooden remains were found is being kept a secret, but it was at a height of 3,960 metres (13,000 feet). They now plan to carry out a more detailed investigation of what they found.

Several historians say they do not believe the claims. Many doubt the flood actually happened. They argue that if the floodwaters rose high enough to leave a boat near the top of the mountain they must have covered all of modern-day Iraq and Egypt as well as the rest of the Middle East. Yet it is known that cities in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) were not flooded at this time. Scientists also say evidence left behind by a flood of this size should still be visible today, but none has been found. ■

NewsCast

RUBBISH DEODORANT — A company in Beijing, the capital of China, is trying out a new way to control the smell coming from one of the city's rubbish dumps. People living nearby have complained about the smell. The company is using specially designed hoses to spray a type of 'natural deodorant', made from several different plants, over the rubbish. The spray is supposed to get rid of the smell. The rubbish is also being covered with large sheets designed to absorb bad smells. However, some people claim the new treatment is not working. They say, with the arrival of warmer weather, the smell is getting worse.

OIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

by Dr Carol Ballard

Oil is the world's most-used source of energy. Yet although it is a naturally occurring substance, oil can cause environmental disasters. Large oil spills or leaks can seriously damage marine creatures and coastal wildlife and plants.

Oil is a fossil fuel. It was formed over a very long period of time. Hundreds of millions of years ago much of the land surface of the Earth was covered with huge trees and large plants. The oceans were also full of tiny plants and small creatures called plankton. When these living things died they sank into muddy swamps on land and to the seabed in the oceans. Slowly, after many years, these remains rotted and formed layers of **organic** material full of carbon.

Later the conditions on Earth changed. Layers of sand and mud covered the carbon-rich organic material. This sand and mud gradually turned to hard rocks. These newly formed rocks squashed the layers underneath. The pressure of the rocks also created heat. These conditions slowly turned the rotted remains of trees, plants and sea creatures into oil and gas.

Over time, earthquakes and other rock movements formed gaps, or chambers, in the rocks deep underground where oil and gas collected. These underground 'chambers' are what we now call oilfields.

Geologists – scientists who study rocks – are able to recognise which rocks are likely to have oil and gas underneath. Once geologists believe they have found an oilfield, an oil rig or platform is set up to drill through the rocks. If the oilfield is under the sea, rigs can be fixed to the seabed or float on the sea above.

Long pipes are fitted behind the oil rig's drill. Once the drill reaches the oilfield underground pressures can force the oil and gas up through the pipes. Pumps may also be needed to bring the oil to the surface. Oil can be transported to where it is needed by large ships, called oil tankers. Gas can be pumped along pipelines.

The oil that comes up from under the ground is called crude or petroleum. It is thick, sticky and black. Crude is a mixture of many different chemicals called hydrocarbons. These contain the elements hydrogen and carbon. All types of hydrocarbons contain a lot of energy. Before they can be used, the different types of hydrocarbons in the crude are separated by a process called fractional distillation. This is done in specially designed large industrial plants called oil refineries.

In refineries, crude oil is heated to very high temperatures. It evaporates into a mixture of gases. These gasses are separated and cooled until they form liquids, which are used to make many oil-based products. For example, from crude we get fuels used for cars, aircraft and other vehicles; lubricating and heating oils; and chemicals for making plastics and paints.

Sometimes oil tankers have accidents that result in oil spilling into the sea. Oil does not mix with water. Instead, on the sea it spreads out and forms a thick floating layer called a slick. Leaking or broken pipes on oil rigs or platforms in the sea can also cause oil slicks.

If an oil slick is far out to sea it can be slowly broken down by the movement of the water and gradually sink to the bottom. But if a large slick washes ashore it can cause serious problems on the coast. On land, oil is very difficult to clean up and can remain just under the surface of the sand or mud for many years.

The feathers of seabirds are no longer waterproof if they are covered in oil. Oil also blocks the fur of marine animals such as seals so they cannot keep warm. If oil-covered birds and animals try to lick themselves clean the oil poisons them.

Some environmental experts warn that as oil companies look for oil and gas in deeper parts of the oceans, the possibility of more environmental disasters like the current one in the Gulf of Mexico is likely to increase.



Oil rig

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN AUSTRIA

A presidential election was held in Austria on 25th April. Of the three candidates, Heinz Fischer won the most votes and was therefore re-elected as the country's president.



Heinz Fischer, president of Austria

In Austria presidential elections are held every six years. Mr Fischer won the last one in 2004. This means he took part in the latest election as the 'incumbent' – the official who currently holds the position.

The position of president of Austria is mainly **symbolic**. He or she has little power. The leader of one of the political parties that has the most members of parliament runs the country. This person is called the chancellor.

One person standing in the election was Barbara Rosenkranz. Mrs Rosenkranz is a controversial politician. She was selected as the Freedom Party's presidential candidate.

The Freedom Party is usually described as 'far right'. This term is used to describe a set of political beliefs. Far right politicians hold what many consider to be very extreme views. They are often accused of being racist. One belief of many far right parties is that all immigration from other countries should be stopped, and that immigrants who have arrived in the recent past must

leave. Far right parties often think it is all right for people with certain religious beliefs to be **persecuted** because of them.

Austria is a member country of the European Union (EU). Mrs Rosenkranz and the Freedom Party disagree with many of the EU's rules and regulations.

Only 50% of the people allowed to vote in the election chose to take part. Of these votes Mr Fischer won 79%. Mrs Rosenkranz got 15% and Rudolf Gehring, the third candidate, 5%.

Austria's next presidential election will be held in 2016. ■

GIRL SURVIVES DEADLY ATTACK

An Australian girl has been released from hospital after recovering from an **encounter** with one of the world's deadliest creatures. Doctors say they are amazed the ten-year-old girl survived after she was badly stung by a box jellyfish.

The box jellyfish is a sea creature that lives in tropical and subtropical waters. Its body is made of a jelly-like substance that trails long **tentacles**. Its tentacles can be up to three metres (ten feet) in length. Each one contains thousands of stinging cells. Of all the world's venomous creatures, scientists say the box jellyfish is among the most dangerous. This is because its venom acts very quickly. The jellyfish's venom affects the nervous system and the heart. If stung by a box jellyfish a person can suffer from heart failure.

Rachael Shardlow was stung while swimming in a river in Queensland, a state in the north east of Australia. The box jellyfish tentacles wrapped around her leg and

began stinging her. Her 13-year-old brother was with her at the time. He pulled his sister out of the river. He said she told him she could not see and was having difficulty breathing. She then became unconscious.

Rachael was taken to hospital immediately where doctors worked to save her life. It was six weeks before she was allowed to go back home.

One scientist who is an expert on sea creatures was amazed that Rachael survived. He said venom from this type of box jellyfish could kill a human more quickly than that from any other venomous animal. Her recovery was even more remarkable, he said, considering how many stings she had on her legs. He believes this is the first time anyone has survived such serious box jellyfish stings and she is lucky to be alive.

Rachael still has to wear special bandages on her legs, which have some scars from the jellyfish stings. However, doctors and her family say she is making an extremely good recovery. ■



Box jellyfish

BHUTAN'S FIRST SUMMIT

The small Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan held its first-ever international meeting, or summit, on 28th and 29th April. The Kingdom hosted the 16th meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The SAARC was first set up in 1985. It has eight member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan,

India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The latest country to join the group was Afghanistan in 2007. A Secretary-General leads the SAARC. The current Secretary-General is Sheel Kant Sharma, a [diplomat](#) from India.

The SAARC's job is to work out ways for its member countries to work more closely together. This includes trade – buying and selling goods and services – and solving political disagreements.

The Kingdom of Bhutan has a population of around 680,000. Until recently it was closed to the outside world. For example, people there



SAARC logo

did not have television until 1999, and had access to the internet only after 2008. The current king's father ran the country

as an absolute monarch. This meant the king ran the country and made all the important decisions. He was assisted by a few ministers that he personally selected.

This changed in 1998 when the king announced that a group of ministers would run the country. He also said the country's first democratic elections would take place in 2008. After these were held, he said, he would step down. His son would become the new king, but would not have any power to run the country.

Bhutan is now a constitutional monarchy – a country with an elected prime minister and a member of the royal family as head of state. The prime minister and an elected parliament run the country and the king acts as a figurehead.

In the past Bhutan has been reluctant to hold any international meetings. This, officials said, was because it did not have enough

facilities such as hotel rooms to host many foreign leaders and their advisers all at the same time.



■ Member countries of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The theme chosen by Bhutan for its first international meeting was 'Towards a Green and Happy South Asia'. All those attending the meeting said they believed it had been a great success. ■

LIVING WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER

Military scientists working at a hospital in India have begun a study of an unusual 82-year-old man. The man, called Prahlad Jani, is an Indian yogi. He claims he has neither eaten nor drunk anything for over 70 years.

A yogi is a person who has special spiritual beliefs, does yoga, and spends many hours [meditating](#). Prahlad Jani left home at the age of seven to become a wandering monk. He says about a year later a goddess blessed him. This blessing, he says, has made him able to live without food or water ever since.

Seven years ago doctors at the same hospital studied Prahlad Jani. They kept him in a room for ten days. During this time he ate and drank nothing. He did not bathe nor go to the toilet. He was given a small amount of water every day to wash out his mouth. This was collected and measured after he spat it out to

check to see if he had drunk any of it. The doctors said his health was not affected over the ten days but he had lost a very small amount of weight.

Usually the human body is not able to survive without water for more than four days. People who fast can last without food for much longer, but this is because they continue to drink small amounts of water. Even with water, most people would die if they did not eat anything for over 50 days. But people fasting also continue to pass urine, which Prahlad Jani does not seem to do.

The test began on 22nd April. Prahlad Jani will be under [surveillance](#) for between 15 and 20 days. As part of the experiment military doctors will do medical tests on him, including scanning his brain and taking blood samples. During the experiment Prahlad Jani is also being filmed throughout the day and night.

After six days doctors said yoga exercises seem to have had an amazing effect on Prahlad Jani's body.

NewsCast

WORLD'S TASTIEST — A restaurant in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, has been awarded the title of 'best restaurant in the world' by an English food magazine. The announcement was made at a special ceremony in London, the capital of the UK. The restaurant is well-known for using unusual ways of making food – for example, using liquid nitrogen to freeze things. It has even created 'edible soil' to serve vegetables in. The top ten restaurants included four in Spain and three in the USA. The Spanish restaurant that has come first for the last five years was knocked into second place by the Danish one.

After doing some tests they said his brain function is similar to that of a 25-year-old man.



Prahlad Jani

The doctor in charge of the experiment says he wants to discover how a human body can survive for a long time without food and water. He thinks if this can be taught, it could be useful for soldiers. It could also help people who live in places where natural disasters, such as earthquakes, happen. If someone were to get trapped under a collapsed building without food and water, he or she could stay alive for many days before being rescued. ■

FAMOUS VOYAGE RELIVED

On 29th April four men set off in a small boat near the Pacific Ocean island of Tonga. They plan to recreate a famous voyage made by Captain William Bligh 221 years ago.

Captain Bligh was in charge of a British navy ship called the *Bounty*. He was ordered to travel to the island of Tahiti to collect samples of a local plant nicknamed 'breadfruit'. These plants were then to be taken to Jamaica, where it was hoped they would grow and provide an inexpensive food for slaves that had been taken there from Africa.

In 1789, as the ship sailed near Tonga, many of the *Bounty's* crew mutinied. They illegally took control of the ship and locked up Captain

Bligh and his supporters. Soon afterwards they put the Captain in one of the ship's small sailing boats with 18 other men who had not joined the mutiny. The boat was only seven metres (23 feet) long. Captain Bligh was given food and water for only a few days. The *Bounty* then sailed away.

The small boat was dangerously overloaded. Captain Bligh was not given any maps, but he had a pocket watch and a sextant – an instrument used by sailors for navigation.

At first they sailed to a nearby island but the people there killed one of the men. Captain Bligh then decided to sail westwards to East Timor – a distance of about 5,800 kilometres (3,600 miles) – where he knew there was a port controlled by Europeans.

Captain Bligh was worried about stopping anywhere in case native people tried to kill any more of his men. The only weapons they had to defend themselves were a few swords. After 47 days, the boat reached in East Timor. All the men had survived the trip although a few died soon after they arrived. Many people consider Captain Bligh's open-boat voyage to be one of the greatest ever completed.



The boat following Captain Bligh's voyage

The boat in which the men plan to recreate the remarkable journey is about the same size as Captain Bligh's. They are also only taking the same amount of food and water, the same instruments that Captain Bligh had, and no maps. One of the

crew is only 18 years old and has never sailed before.

The expedition's leader is Don McIntyre, an experienced Australian sailor. He says the only modern equipment they will have is a life raft and GPS finder. These, he explains, will be used only in an emergency.

Mr McIntyre says two previous expeditions have followed Captain Bligh's journey. Yet both have used modern equipment. He therefore believes his voyage will be the first to recreate the conditions faced by Captain Bligh and some of the *Bounty's* crew over 200 years ago. ■

ICE DISCOVERED ON ASTEROID

Two teams of astronomers – scientists who study planets and objects in space – from the USA have announced they have discovered ice on a large asteroid, or space rock. The asteroid, called 24 Themis, is orbiting the Sun in what's known as the asteroid belt. This 'belt' is between Mars and Jupiter.

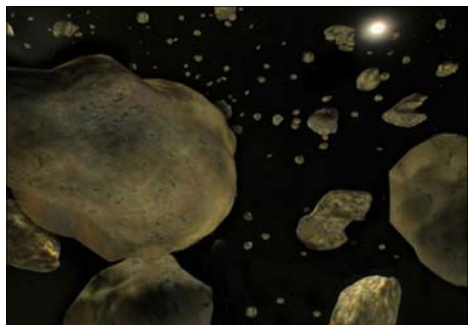
The discovery, which was made using high-powered telescopes, is important. This is because it could prove all the water on the Earth originally came from asteroids and comets. Comets are frozen objects made up of ice, rock and dirt, which also orbit the sun.

Most scientists agree the Earth is about 4.5 billion years old. They think when it first formed the Earth was a rocky waterless planet that was closer to the Sun. Many have therefore wondered where all the water on the Earth came from.

One theory is that the water was brought by hundreds of thousands of asteroids and comets. These are thought to have crashed into the Earth between 4.1 and 3.8 billion

years ago. As they came from cooler parts of space, the asteroids are believed to have had ice on them. The water they brought was eventually enough to cover around two thirds of the planet.

24 Thermis is one of the larger objects in the asteroid belt. It is almost 200 kilometres (125 miles) wide. By studying the light reflected from it, one of the teams of astronomers calculated it must be covered in a very thin layer of frost. This was a surprise to the scientists. Until now they believed the Sun's heat was enough to have **evaporated** any water on the asteroid's surface a long time ago. They now suspect water held in the middle of the asteroid gradually comes to the surface to replace the water that has evaporated.



Artist's impression of the asteroid belt

Astronomers now hope a mission to 24 Thermis can be organised. If it is possible to collect some of the asteroid's ice. This could then be compared with water found on the Earth. Scientists say if they are exactly the same it could prove that all the Earth's water originally came from asteroids and comets. ■

SHANGHAI EXPO OPENS

Expo 2010 opened to the public in Shanghai, one of China's largest cities, on 1st May. A huge firework display and ceremony

marking the official opening of the Expo took place on the evening of 30th April.



China Pavilion, Expo 2010

Expos – short for expositions – are also known as World or International Fairs. They are enormous shows that have many exhibits of traditions, music, products and art from different countries. The Shanghai Expo includes displays from around 190 countries. It will remain open for six months.

Most historians say the world's first 'Expo' was the Great Exhibition, held in the UK in 1851. It was the idea of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. A huge 'glasshouse' similar to an enormous greenhouse was built in a park in London, the capital of the UK, for the exhibition. The Great Exhibition included items from all over the world as well as many new industrial inventions.

Since the 1920s an organisation called the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) has decided where World Fairs can be held. There are two types. The large ones are called World Expos. Nowadays, these are held every five years. The last World Expo took place in Japan in 2005. The next will be in 2015 in Milan, in Italy. The smaller fairs are often called

International Expos. These usually last only for a few months.

At both types of Expos there are separate 'pavilions' for different countries. Countries design and decorate their pavilions according to the Expo's theme. The 2010 theme is 'Better City – Better Life'. Not every country has its own pavilion. For example, in Shanghai there is one large pavilion for the whole of Africa.

Shanghai has spent many years preparing for its Expo. The pavilions have been built on the site of old steel and shipbuilding factories. The Expo is taking place on both sides of the River Huangpu, which flows through the city.

The China Pavilion is the largest. It looks like an ancient Chinese crown or upside-down pyramid. Japan's pavilion is like a huge tent. Everything inside is powered by solar cells that have been sewn into the material from which the tent is made.

Experts calculate that holding the Expo will cost about £35 billion (US\$52.5 billion). This figure, they say, includes all the building work. Officials from Shanghai claim it is costing much less than this.

Hu Jin-tao, the president of China, and Nicolas Sarkozy and Lee Myung-bak, the presidents of France and South Korea, attended the

opening ceremony. It is estimated about 70 million people will visit the 2010 Expo. Most will be from China. The organisers are also predicting that around five million foreign tourists will travel to Shanghai to see the Expo. ■



UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

Fighting broke out in the Verkhovna Rada, the parliament of Ukraine, on 27th April. The trouble began when a vote was being taken. The vote was about letting Russia use a navy base on the Black Sea, in the Crimea, which is part of Ukraine.

Ukraine was once part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. Soon after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 Ukraine became an independent country. Under Viktor Yuschenko, who was elected president at the beginning of 2005, Ukraine began to work more closely with European countries. This angered Russia. President Yuschenko said he wanted Ukraine to join the European Union (EU) and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

When Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union the Russian Black Sea fleet of navy ships was based at Sevastopol, a port in Crimea. After Ukraine became independent, it said the Russian navy could continue

to use the port of Sevastopol until 2017. President Yuschenko said he would not extend this date.



During Mr Yuschenko's time as president Ukraine and Russia had several arguments about natural gas. Russia is one of the world's largest producers of gas. Some is sold to Ukraine. But large amounts are also sold to European countries. This gas is transported through long pipelines that cross Ukraine. Russia accused Ukraine of not paying for all the gas it used. It also claimed that Ukraine had stolen gas being transported to Europe along the pipelines. Ukraine denied this. Yet it did admit it was having difficulty paying for the Russian gas it used because it did not have enough money.

Ukraine is now split between people who are either anti- or pro-Russia. Most people who live in the east of the country are pro-Russia. Most living on the western side are anti-Russia. The current president, Viktor Yanukovich, is from the east of Ukraine. He was elected at the beginning of 2010. He is the leader of the 'Party of the Regions', a pro-Russian political party.

Recently, President Yanukovich signed an agreement with Vladimir Putin, Russia's prime minister. It says Russia can continue to use Sevastopol as a naval base until 2047. In return Russia has agreed to lower the price at which it sells gas to Ukraine by 30%. Experts say, over

the next ten years, this **discount** will be worth around £26 billion (US\$ 40 billion).

President Yanukovich's opponents claim the agreement betrays Ukraine. Some of them threw eggs at the person organising the vote in parliament. Somebody let off a smoke bomb. Others displayed a large Ukrainian flag, and fighting broke out. Yet despite the protests 236 members of parliament, out of a total of 450, voted to accept the agreement with Russia. ■

CAR BOMB IN NEW YORK

On 1st May a man in New York City, in the USA, told a policeman he had seen smoke inside a car parked in the city centre. The car's engine had been left running and its hazard warning lights were on.

The car had been parked in Times Square, a busy area popular with tourists, at about six thirty in the evening. At this time the square was full of people. When police officers arrived they evacuated everyone from surrounding buildings and streets.

A specially trained bomb disposal team was called. Using a robot-like device they broke one of the car's windows. Inside they found two large cans of petrol, gunpowder, two clocks, batteries and tanks full of propane – a type of gas compressed into a liquid. Propane is highly **flammable**. There were also fireworks in the car.

Once the bomb disposal team had made the car safe it was taken away.

The mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, and the city's Chief of Police said the bomb was badly designed. However, if it had exploded, they said, many people could have been killed or seriously wounded.

NewsCAST

UNUSUAL BODYGUARDS — A nature reserve in the UK has employed two unusual guards to protect its wildlife – a pair of llamas. The animals have been brought to the reserve to scare away predators that take eggs and baby birds. Llamas, say members of the reserve's staff, can be aggressive when defending their territory. They make loud noises and even spit if they feel threatened. The staff hope the llamas will keep animals such as foxes away from the reserve's population of breeding birds and chicks.



An investigation immediately started to find the person or people who put the bomb in the car and drove it to Times Square. Police studied hundreds of hours of pictures taken from CCTV cameras in the surrounding area.



Times Square

On 4th May the Chief of Police announced a man had been arrested. The man had been on a plane about to take off from New York airport. The plane was going to Dubai. The police said the man is an American citizen who was originally from Pakistan and that he had admitted parking the car in Times Square.

Experts say the car bomb was similar to one found in London, the capital of the UK, in 2007. This car bomb also failed to go off. The people discovered to have organised the bomb belonged to a group of Muslims that was angry about the UK government's involvement in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. ■

CLIMBING ARGUMENT

On 27th April a South Korean woman claimed a new record – the first woman to have climbed the 14 highest mountains in the world. However, another female climber from Spain, who is now climbing the last of her 14 peaks, claims the South Korean woman did not reach the top of one of the mountains she climbed last year.

The world's 14 highest mountains are nicknamed the 8,000ers (or Eight-thousanders). This is because they are all over 8,000 metres (26,247 feet) high. They include Mount Everest and K2, the worlds highest and second highest mountains. All 14 peaks are either in the Himalayan Mountain Range, close to the border between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, or the Karakoram Mountain Range, in the part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan.

Oh Eun-Sun, the South Korean climber, reached the top of her first Eight-thousander in 1997. The second one she climbed was Mount Everest.

On 27th April, Ms Oh reached the top of Annapurna, her 14th and last Eight-thousander. A South Korean outdoor clothing company has sponsored Ms Oh. A live television broadcast on South Korean television showed her reaching the top of her final Eight-thousander. A cameraman who was part of the team accompanying Ms Oh took the film.

Edurne Pasaban is the Spanish woman who is also trying to climb all 14 peaks. She climbed her first one in 2001. Ms Pasaban reached the top of Annapurna in April. She now only has one left to climb, Shishapangma, in Tibet. This mountain is 8,027 metres (26,335 feet) high and is the smallest of the 14 peaks.

The records of which climbers have reached the top of many of the world's highest mountains are kept by Elizabeth Hawley. She is an 86-year-old American mountain historian who lives in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal.

Recently, Ms Pasaban told Ms Hawley she thought Ms Oh had

not actually reached the top of Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain, in 2009. Ms Pasaban claims a photograph taken of Ms Oh at the top of the mountain shows a rope and bare rock. Ms Pasaban climbed the mountain at around the same time as Ms Oh. She insists the top was covered in snow and there is no need for a rope on the summit of Kangchenjunga. Ms Pasaban suspects the photograph was not taken on the top of the mountain and therefore doesn't prove Ms Oh reached the summit. Ms Oh says the photograph is not clear because there was a snowstorm at the time.



Oh Eun-Sun

Edurne Pasaban

Ms Hawley has said that she has now marked Ms Oh's climb of Kangchenjunga in 2009 as 'disputed'. She says she will question Ms Oh about it when the South Korean climber visits her to record her recent successful climb of Annapurna.

Ms Oh's record has also been marred by reports that her team did not help another climber on Annapurna. This climber became ill while trying to get to the top as Ms Oh and her team were coming down the mountain. The climber later died.

Ms Oh has become a 'national hero' in South Korea. Lee Myung-bak, the country's president, sent her a message of congratulations soon after she reached the top of Annapurna.

Before Ms Oh, 17 men have climbed all 14 Eight-thousanders. The first was Reinhold Messner, from Italy. He completed his climbs in 1986. Several other climbers, both male and female, have died while trying to reach the top of all 14. ■

GUNFIGHT DOCUMENT

A document that's over 125 years old has been rediscovered by workers who were tidying up a storeroom in a building in Arizona, in the USA. The document is a report of the inquest done after a famous gunfight took place in the town of Tombstone in 1881.

The incident at Tombstone is now known as 'the gunfight at the O.K. Corral'. Corral is a word used in the USA for a fenced-in area where horses or cattle can be kept. When the gunfight took place Tombstone was in the part of America that became known as the 'Wild West'.



Re-enactment of the gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona

The gunfight was between two groups. One group included three brothers, one of whom, Virgil Earp, was deputy marshal of Tombstone. This is similar to being a senior member of the police force today. The other two Earp brothers were also part of the town's police force. The fourth member of the group was a friend of the Earps called John or 'Doc' Holliday.

The other group was made up of two local families, the Clantons and the McLaurys. The Earps were sure that members of both families were guilty of robbing people and stealing horses and cattle. Before the gunfight the Earps had had several disagreements with the Clantons and the McLaurys.

At the time it was illegal to bring guns into Tombstone. The gunfight is believed to have started after Doc Holliday threatened one of the Clantons, who then brought a gun into the town. Virgil Earp arrested him for carrying a weapon. When the other Clanton heard about this he and the McLaurys arrived in Tombstone. All were carrying guns. The two groups then faced each other near the O.K. Corral in the town. Shooting started. It is not known who fired the first shot. Two of the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday were wounded. Both McLaurys and one of the Clantons were killed.

The Earps and Doc Holliday were arrested. An inquest was held the same day. Yet a judge decided they had not done anything wrong and all were released.

The gunfight at the O.K. Corral has now become a legend in American history. Many films have been made and books written about what happened. Some consider the Earp brothers and Doc Holliday 'folk heroes' of the American Wild West. Today frequent re-enactments of the gunfight are held in Tombstone for visiting tourists.

The document was rediscovered in a plain envelope marked with the word 'Keep'. It contains accounts by the people who saw the gunfight. The document has always been known to exist and in 1960 photocopies were made of it, so the discovery doesn't contain any new information.

However no-one knew what had happened to the original report.

The document has been sent to experts who will try to restore it. After being kept in the envelope for so long it has become faded and the paper it was written on is now very brittle. There are plans to digitise each page so people can read the report online. ■

BURQA AND NIQAB BAN

On 29th April Belgium's parliament voted in favour of banning women from wearing a burqa or niqab in public places.

The burqa and the niqab are traditional Islamic forms of dress. Both are dark full-body coverings that also have a headscarf and a type of face veil or mask. They are worn by women to cover their faces, hair and bodies when out in public. The burqa has a small mesh screen that covers the woman's eyes.

For many Muslim women it is a personal choice whether to wear

NEWSCAST

DOG BLOOD DONORS — India has opened a new medical centre in the city of Chennai – a blood bank for dogs. It is asking owners to bring their dogs so the animals can give, or donate, blood. This blood can then be used in operations on other dogs. The blood bank is at a university where vets perform surgery on animals. Dogs in the city often die after being hit by cars because they lose too much blood. The vets say dogs can donate blood up to four times a year. They now hope many dog owners will register their pets as blood donors.

any form of head covering, body covering or veil. For example, some women choose to wear headscarves, but not veils covering their faces. Some women say wearing a headscarf or body covering gives them freedom, because they know people are not looking at their bodies. Other women see the burqa and niqab as symbols of being controlled.

Amnesty International is an organisation that works to promote human rights. It complains when it believes a person's human rights are being **violated**, or denied. The organisation disagrees with Belgium's decision. It says banning the wearing of a burqa or niqab means people do not have the right to freely express their religion.

Nicolas Sarkozy, the president of France, has said he wants to have a similar law in his country. He believes the burqa and niqab

are not a symbol of religion but of **oppression**.

One country that has a ban on wearing any kind of head covering in certain situations is Turkey, even though almost all of Turkey's population is Muslim. Turkey is a secular state. This means everything to do with the government – including schools, universities and hospitals – has to be kept separate from religion. Therefore there is a law that states women visiting or working in government offices or attending schools or university cannot wear a headscarf.

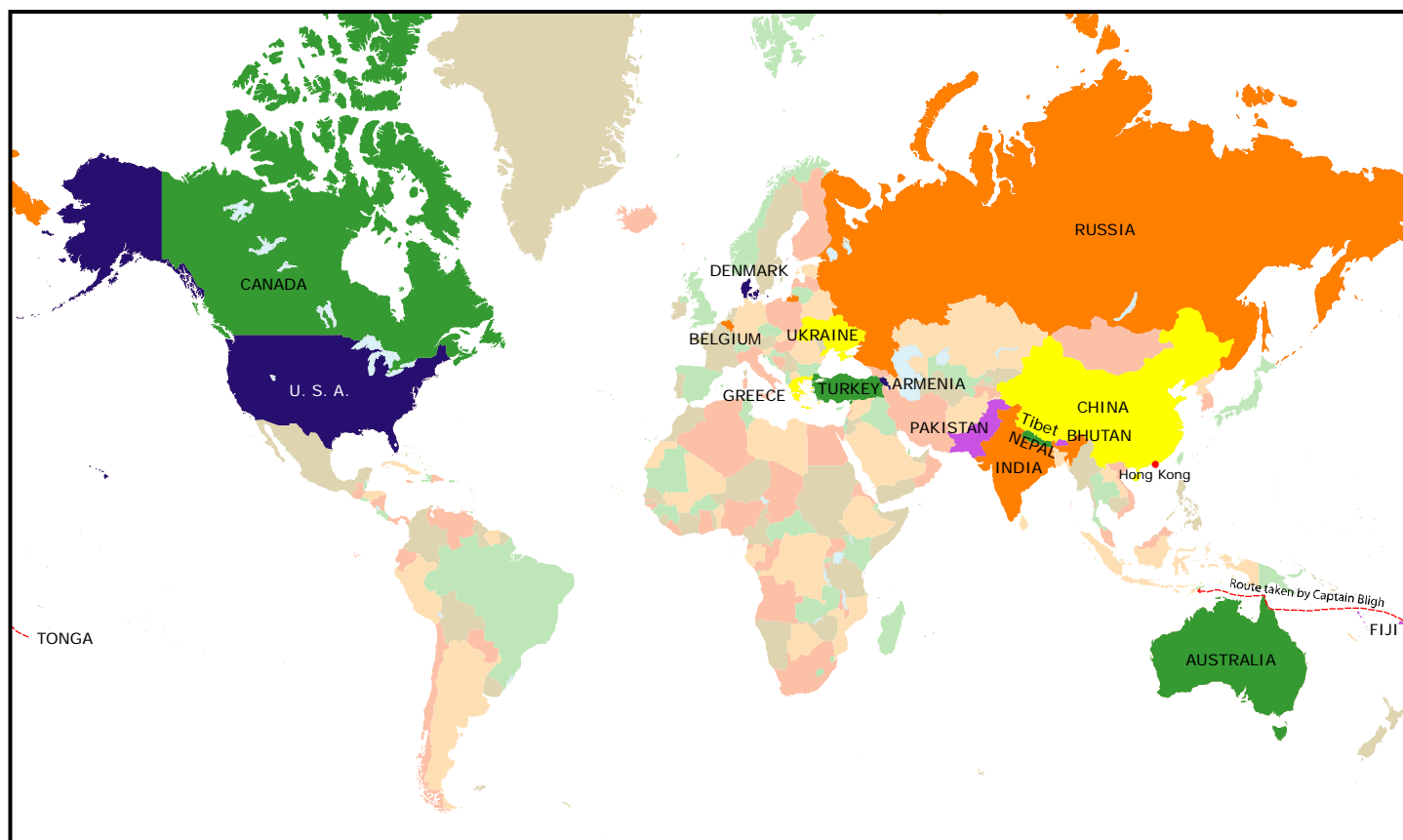
The current Turkish government wanted to change this law in 2008. It claimed some women were not going to university because they were uncomfortable about having to remove their headscarves. Many people protested about the change and the ban is still in place.

The members of Belgium's parliament who voted for the ban say the new law is important for security. They say the police must be able to see and identify people's faces in public.



Women wearing niqabs

Like many countries, Belgium's parliament has two 'houses' – a lower house and an upper house. For any proposal to become law both houses must pass it. As the lower house has voted to ban the burqa and niqab the new law will now have to be voted



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

on by the upper house. Experts think the upper house is unlikely to vote against the ban. ■

WALPURGIS NIGHT AND MAY DAY

On 30th April, people in northern Europe and Scandinavia celebrated Walpurgis Night.

Walpurgis Night (or 'Nacht') was originally an ancient North European or Scandinavian Pagan celebration of springtime. Walpurga was the name of a Christian saint born in what is now the UK around 700AD. In Christian tradition each Saint has his or her own 'holy day'. Saint Walpurga's holy day is 1st May. Historians say the early Christian Church deliberately 'merged' many Pagan and Christian festivals together. This, they think, is how the celebration of springtime in Northern Europe on the night of 30th April and 1st May became known as Walpurgis Night.



Walpurgis night bonfire in Sweden

One tradition of Walpurgis Night is to light large bonfires. Traditionally these are meant to keep away evil spirits and demons. People also get together to sing songs and eat and drink. In some places, people mark the festival by dressing in costumes and playing pranks and tricks. In this way it's similar to Halloween, which is celebrated in many countries (especially in North America) on 31st October.

NEWSCAST

LUCKY GOOSE — A goose has been released into the wild after a successful recovery from an injury that caused it to suddenly fall out of the sky. Someone hunting in the USA shot the flying goose with an arrow. Luckily when the goose fell to the ground, it landed in the back garden of a retired vet. The vet was able to remove the arrow and give the bird lifesaving treatment. He took the goose to a bird sanctuary to recover. Local officials say hunting geese with arrows is illegal in the area of the USA where the goose was hit.

Other northern hemisphere countries celebrate spring on 1st May, which is also called Mayday. In many places where Walpurgis Night has been celebrated, the festivities carry on into the following day with breakfast picnics.

Mayday celebrations usually involve traditional dancing and singing. In the UK this includes traditions known as Morris dancing and maypole dancing. The maypole is a very tall pole that stands up out of the ground. Many brightly-coloured ribbons are attached to the top of the maypole. Each dancer holds one ribbon and moves in and out of the other dancers, making woven patterns with the ribbons. In some celebrations a girl is crowned the 'May Queen', often wearing a garland of flowers on her head.

Mayday is also the day of an ancient Gaelic and Celtic spring festival called Beltane (Beltane is sometimes also marked in the southern hemisphere, on 1st November). It's known as a cross-quarter day in the calendar. It marks the end of the winter half of the year and the beginning

of the summer half. To mark Beltane people sometimes hang boughs of blossoms over their doors, which historians say, like the Walpurgis Night bonfires, were traditionally meant to ward off evil spirits. ■

BOOK COMPLAINT CAUSES ARGUMENT

Officials in charge of a group of schools in Canada have been asked to think again about one of their decisions. A parent made a complaint about a book called *The Shepherd's Granddaughter*, which the officials had agreed could be made available in school libraries. Now religious and other library organisations have become involved in the argument about the book and whether it should be censored.

The book was written by Anne Laurel Carter, who is a teacher. It tells the story of a Palestinian girl. The book is set in an area of Palestinian territory where there are several Israeli settlements.

The state of Israel was set up with help from the USA and the United Nations (UN) in 1948. Much of the land that became part of Israel belonged to Palestinian families. Most of these families were forced to move to refugee camps. Many Palestinians now live in two separate areas called the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The creation of the country of Israel has led to a number of wars. In 1967, several Arab countries attacked Israel. During the fighting Israel captured the West Bank, parts of which it still occupies. Over the last 40 years it has built groups of houses in the West Bank, called settlements, for Israelis to live in.

These settlements have caused many arguments and violence

between militant Palestinian groups and the Israeli army. The United Nations (UN) and many other countries, including the USA, have told Israel not to build any more of them. Most people think there will not be a lasting peace between the Jewish people of Israel and the Palestinians until Israel agrees to leave the West Bank and all the settlements it has built there.

The author says the book is not meant to attack Jewish people or Israel. She says it is meant to show that living in occupied areas of the West Bank is hard for everyday people. People who criticise the book say it only describes the Palestinian side of the argument and makes out that Israel is always in the wrong.

Most people believe freedom of speech is important. In many countries it is a basic human right. Freedom of speech means the freedom to say or write about your thoughts and beliefs without fear of being punished. Yet there are some instances where governments and organisations decide people should not be allowed to write or say what they want. This can be when a person or group writes or says something meant to make others hate another person or group. This is known as hate-speech. In many countries hate-speech is a crime for which people can be arrested and punished.

Librarians claim there is a difference between stopping hate-speech and censoring a book that provides only one side of an argument. Many

say removing a book such as *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* from school libraries so children can't read it is wrong. They say it is important for children to learn how to make up their own minds about controversial subjects, so they should be allowed to read about them.

After reviewing their decision about the book, the school officials decided that it should not be removed from school libraries. They say they don't think it promotes hate towards Israel. *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* has won two national book awards. ▣

PLAIN CIGARETTE PACKETS

The government of Australia plans to become the first country in the world to force tobacco companies to sell cigarettes in plain packets. It believes this will help to stop people from taking up smoking.

The government made its new proposal, or suggestion, on 29th April. If its idea becomes law, all tobacco companies that sell cigarettes in Australia will have to change the packets in which they are sold by the middle of 2012.

Most of the products we buy are wrapped or packaged in a way that is supposed to make them attractive. This is known as marketing – persuading people to buy a certain item. Companies often have their logos – a symbol or design that represents the company – printed on the packaging

of their products. Companies want buyers to associate their logo, or brand, with the product they are trying to sell. People will often choose one brand over another one of the same product – even if the other is cheaper. Marketing experts call this 'brand loyalty'.

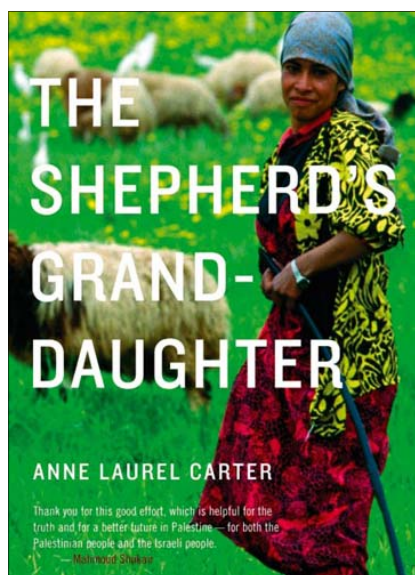
People prefer certain brands for lots of reasons. For example, a buyer might choose a brand because he or she thinks it's good value for money. Brand loyalty might also come from agreeing with what the company believes in. This could be using fair-trade or organic ingredients or promising that its workers have good working conditions. Buyers might also think one company's brand of a product is of better quality than others, or, if it makes a type of food, it tastes better.

Brand loyalty is very important to companies, and they spend a lot of money on packaging and logos to make their products attractive when we see them in shops. The new rule in Australia would forbid tobacco companies from putting their brands or advertising on cigarette packages. Instead the package would be plain. The

only writing would be the company name in a small font in black, and a government warning that says smoking can seriously damage your health.

In Australia illnesses caused by smoking are estimated to kill around 15,000 people every year. Officials say 12 years ago about 30% of people over 14 years of age smoked in Australia. Today it is roughly 16.5%. The government wants to reduce the figure to 10% by 2018.

The large tobacco companies are very angry about the government's proposal. One says it believes



forcing them to use plain packaging could be against the law. Yet experts say if the argument were to go to court they would expect the tobacco companies to lose. Some people think if the Australian government's plan goes ahead, many other countries will introduce similar rules.

BAIL-OUT PROTESTS IN GREECE

On 23rd April the prime minister of Greece, George Papandreou, admitted that his country cannot repay some of its debts. On 19th May Greece must repay €9 billion (£7.7 billion) to the foreign banks that lent it the money.

Mr Papandreou has asked for financial help from two groups – the Eurozone and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Eurozone, of which Greece is a member, is a group of 16 European Union (EU) member countries that use the euro as their currency.

The IMF is based in the USA. It has around 180 member countries. Each country, depending on its size, pays a certain amount of money to the IMF. Currently the country that pays the most is the USA. One of the IMF's jobs is to give financial help and advice to its members. It will also agree to lend money to them if they cannot borrow it from anywhere else. Most countries try to avoid borrowing money from the IMF because in return they have to obey very strict IMF rules.

When a country, such as Greece, or a company gets help to pay off its debts it is often called a bail-out.

Greece's financial problems go back to before it started to use the euro in 2001. Most experts agree that for many years the country has been borrowing more money than

it can afford to repay. Much of this money has been lent to Greece by banks in other Eurozone countries.

Banks expect the money they lend to be repaid with an extra amount called an interest payment. Because of Greece's problems the amount of interest it has to pay on the money it borrows has been getting higher. So now the interest on the money Greece borrows is much higher than the interest France or Germany have to pay when borrowing money. France and Germany are also members of the Eurozone.

Experts think, starting next year, Greece will have to begin repaying large amounts of money it borrowed in the past. These annual payments, they say, could be as much as €40 billion (£34 billion).



George Papandreou, prime minister of Greece

On 2nd May other Eurozone countries and the IMF agreed to lend Greece around €10 billion (£9.5 billion) over the next three years. Yet they insisted that Prime Minister Papandreou agree to reduce the money his government currently spends and increase the amount of taxes Greek people have to pay. This is so that Greece will be able to pay off its own debts in future.

Mr Papandreou then announced that everyone who works for the Greek government would have his or her wage cut. He also said the retirement age of women would go up from 60 to 65 (the same as men), all retired people's pensions would be

reduced and the sales tax, which is added to the price of most items sold, would increase from 21% to 23%. Other taxes will also have to rise.

On the 4th and 5th of May thousands of Greek workers went on strike. Many of them protested in the streets of Athens, the capital city. All are angry about the wage cuts and having to pay much higher taxes. They claim the country's financial problems are not their fault. During the demonstrations a bank was set on fire. Three bank workers, who were unable to get out of the building, died in the blaze.

The police used tear gas and pepper spray to try to control the protestors. Some demonstrators attempted to get into the country's parliament and stop it discussing the terms of the new loan from the Eurozone and the IMF.

Many people in other Eurozone countries such as Germany are also unhappy. They are angry that their countries, as members of the Eurozone, have had to bail out Greece. Some experts worry that similar financial problems may soon start to affect Portugal, Spain and Ireland – all members of the Eurozone. These countries, they say, have also borrowed too much money in the past. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



other child of her age. He's a typical boy who just loves tying knots. Lucky lives with her mother, Brigitte, who's from France. Lucky kind of adopted Brigitte (or was it the other way around?) after her real mum passed away when Lucky was eight (another good reason to leave those single-syllable ages behind).

Because she is an aspiring scientist, one of Lucky's great role models is Sir Charles Darwin. In fact, she and the famous naturalist have much in common. They have both been dedicated to science since their childhoods (though Lucky hasn't actually left her childhood, she nevertheless has great plans); they both notice how animals have adapted to their habitats; and Lucky's dog has the same name as Charles Darwin's ship, the HMS Beagle.

When a small team of geologists travels through Hard Pan, Lucky's world is turned upside down – for the better. The geologists are interesting, but it's the girl, Paloma, travelling with them who makes Lucky's day. Lucky and Paloma hit it off perfectly. It's as if they don't need words to communicate – all they need is eye contact and suddenly each knows what the other is thinking. Finally, Lucky has what she has always wanted: a best friend, a girl friend.

But Paloma and Lucky can't spend as much time together as they wish, because Paloma lives almost 320 kilometres (200 miles) away. So the girls face some interesting challenges, not least trying to manage Paloma's parents.

Not much is said about Lucky's father, except that he left Lucky and some money with Brigitte to help raise

Lucky is just turning eleven, thrilled she's finally leaving the single-syllable age group forever. She's a very thoughtful and insightful girl: perhaps it's in her genes, or maybe she became that way because in the town of Hard Pan, California, USA, with a population of 43, there isn't a whole lot to do except think about things.

Lucky's one friend in town is Lincoln, the only

her. Brigitte is working to get her American citizenship and half the townspeople have made it their personal quest to teach her everything she needs to know about being American – with Lucky leading the effort. A lot of Brigitte's Americanisation centres on her delicate French cuisine (she absolutely will NOT prepare hamburgers in her small restaurant).

I especially enjoyed reading Lucky's reactions and feelings in this story. Susan Patron has a scientific way of describing how Lucky feels. It's almost as if Lucky has decided that as a scientist she must consider which glands and organs she should credit for how she feels, while the situations she finds herself in are just the catalysts, the things that get her body started.

For example, as she and Lincoln grow further apart, her "meanness gland" starts working, and she angrily cuts up Lincoln's knot-tying project. The project is important because Lincoln plans to enter an international knot-tying competition. Lucky really wants him to win of course... but if he does, her only friend in town will leave and travel to the UK for a whole semester, leaving Lucky alone in Hard Pan (with a new population of only 42).

This story is about the meaning and importance of friendships, about having good friends, understanding and appreciating what a good friend is, and most importantly, about being a good friend. I recommend this book for readers aged nine and up, and for anyone who would like to explore the meaning of friendship. *Lucky Breaks* is the sequel to the Newbery Award-winning *The Higher Power of Lucky*.

Lucky Breaks by Susan Patron. Atheneum

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

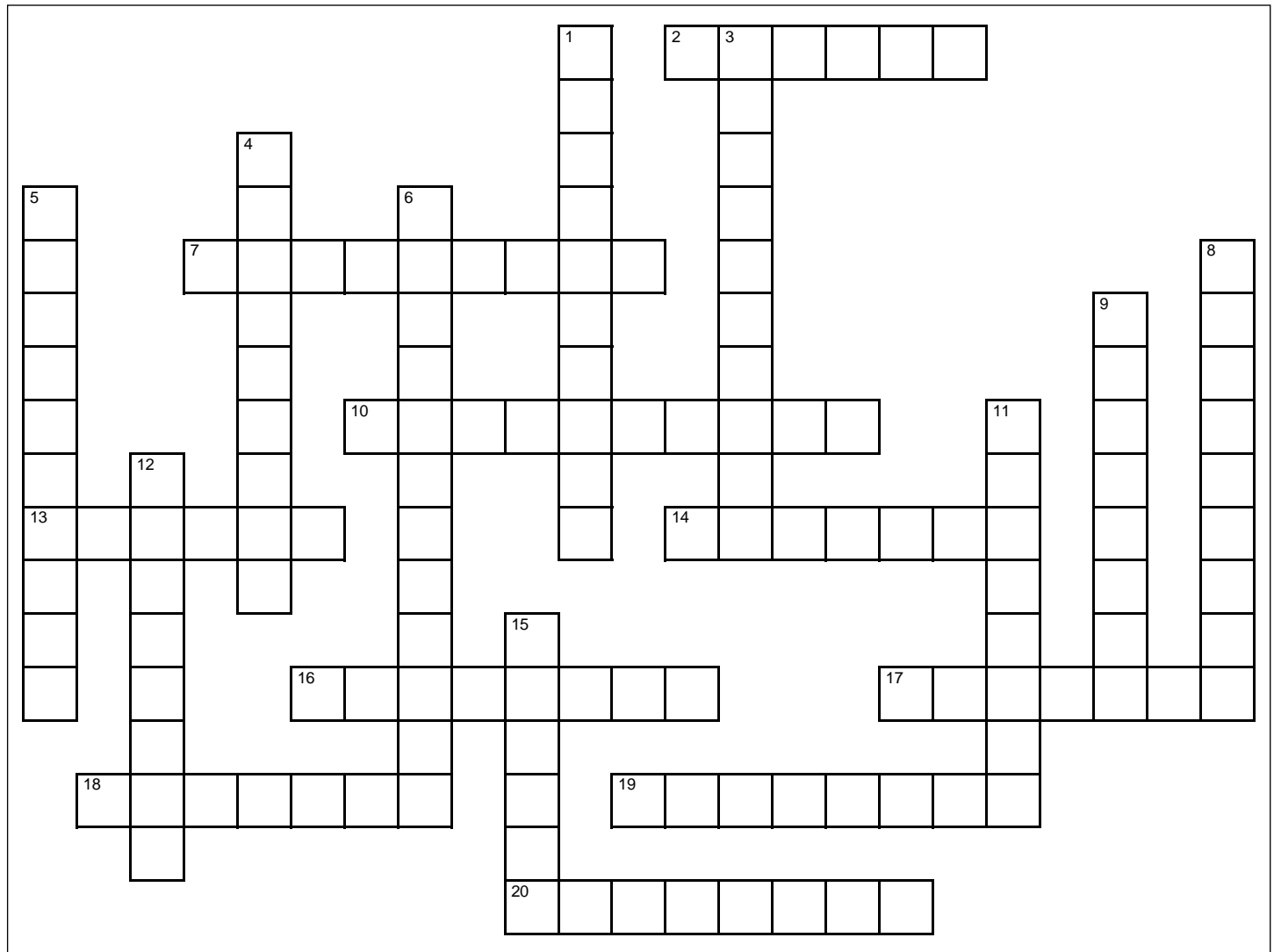
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 2 Noun (Plural)** Large tree branches
7 Noun An unexpected meeting
10 Verb Using calm thoughts as a religious activity or to relax
13 Verb Spoiled something or made it less enjoyable
14 Noun An official process to discover what caused a person's death
16 Verb Removed parts of a film, book, magazine, song or website that are thought to be unacceptable
17 Adjective Describes something that is easily broken
18 Verb To return something to the condition it was in when it was first made
19 Verb Acted against the law
20 Adjective Representing something but with little power or influence

Down

- 1 Verb** Continually mistreated somebody or a group of people
3 Noun Being prevented from having freedom; being governed in a cruel or unfair way
4 Noun (Plural) Long, thin, arm-like parts of some sea creatures, used for movement and catching food
5 Adjective Having the power to make your own decisions
6 Noun The careful watching of a person to check what he or she are doing
8 Adjective Able to catch fire
9 Noun The amount by which a price is lowered
11 Verb Refused to obey orders from someone in command
12 Verb Believed something is true because it is very likely to have happened
15 Noun (Plural) Tricks played to deceive people

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION *CONTINUED*

S U R V E I L L A N C E W H I F T N
 U E E W S H G U O B A D T C M L E O
 O R L R E A F T I N G I B I U A P I
 M S E C X B W F P G M S I L T M X S
 O P Z H A B G X U N W C R O I M F S
 N K X L O T P J G I Z O M B N A V E
 O V X W H P N X C T B U P M I B K R
 T K O W P R F E I A T N T Y E L B P
 U D E X V V L A T T Q T S S D E W P
 A H I D E T A L O I V J S B L G I O
 R D W U T Z M R K D H T S E U Q N I
 E X D I F A Z G O E O S L C K L R B
 B D R V R I F I D M S S Z O Z J M Y
 J B V R J U B R E T N U O C N E W M
 K P E N I V Z G F S P R E S U M E D
 I D W Q E R F Z G F R S D B K Z O V
 C E N S O R E D K H B D R L H Y H V
 P E R S E C U T E D O E R O T S E R

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find the crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After solving the word search write down the unused letters, starting at the top left and reading from left to right, top to bottom to find the solution. **Hint** - The numbers of letters and words in the solution are shown under the word search.

COMPETITION PRIZES

Glossary Prize Winner

Paperback copy of 'Lucky Breaks' by Susan Patron

Glossary Prize Runner up

10 free issues of Newsademic

Sudoku Prize Winner

10 free issues of Newsademic

ISSUE NUMBER 117 PRIZE WINNERS

Glossary Competition

Wendy Lopez, USA
David Wang, USA

Sudoku Competition

Tomoko Yamaguichi, Japan

Competition solution (three words with a total of 17 letters)

Go to www.newsademic.com log in and submit your solution by clicking on the "Enter competition" link within the Subscribers tools menu.

Deadline for receiving your entry is 10 pm on 20th May 2010 (GMT/UTC).

COMPETITION RULES:

1 Competition prizes are awarded on a per issue and not a per edition basis. 2 Only one entry per person per competition will be accepted. 3 You must obtain permission from your parent/guardian before entering if you are under 16 years of age. 4 Deadline for receiving entries is at 10 pm (GMT) on 20th May 2010. 5 The winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries received. 6 The winners will be contacted by E-mail. Newsademic's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Prizes must be taken as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8 Newsademic does not accept any responsibility for lost or late entries due to the internet. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt. 9 Prizes won by those who have used a school subscription to enter will be awarded to the individual entrant and not to the school. 10 Competitions are not open to employees or contractors of Newsademic. 11 Newsademic reserves the right to cancel competitions at any stage, if in their opinion it is deemed necessary or if circumstances arise beyond their control. 12 These rules are governed by the laws of England and Wales. 13 When entering competitions entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them.

SUDOKU COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Fill the boxes on each horizontal row with a number between 1 and 9. ② Fill the boxes on each vertical row with a number between 1 and 9. ③ Make sure that each number between 1 and 9 also appears in each highlighted 3 x 3 square box. ④ After solving the Sudoku puzzle write down the numbers from the tinted vertical column from top to bottom in the boxes below.

Competition Solution

		2	1			9	7	
7				9				
		1	5	3				
	4					3		
	7		8					
8			4					
9				6				
2	3			1				5
			9			6		